

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 000854

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/PD, WHA/CCA, WHA/PPC, AND WHA/CEN
STATE FOR DRL, DRL/MLA, IO, INR, AND IIP/G/WHA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KPAO](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [CU](#) [HO](#) [CHR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON UNCHR RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
IN CUBA, APRIL 7-10, 2004

1. Op-ed by Rafael Delgado in the San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "La Prensa" on 4/7 entitled "Foreign policy and subordination." "President Maduro and his ministers have said it: our foreign policy hasn't changed, which means that the current administration has maintained the same approach of subordination to U.S. policy."

"Our President should confirm his commitment to democracy by committing all his efforts to fight against corruption, poverty, and internal insecurity. It's been ridiculous and disgraceful that the government has given in to external pressure to condemn other countries for their lack of respect to human rights."

2. Op-ed by Wilmer Perez Regalado in the San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "La Prensa" on 4/8 entitled "The role of pawn." "We have several adjectives to define the role of the Honduran government as sponsor of an international resolution against Cuba: we can call it a servant, a marionette, or a pawn."

"I'll never support the prosecution, incarceration, and executions carried out by the Castro regime against its political opponents. For instance, in 2003, more than a hundred people, some of them journalists, were jailed just because they dissented from official policy. However, I wonder: why was Honduras chosen to condemn Cuba? Are we morally competent to condemn other countries for human rights violations?"

3. Op-ed by Carlos Mendez in the Tegucigalpa-based moderate daily "El Herald" on 4/10 entitled "Immorality." "For quite some time, Honduras carries a heavy debt in terms of human rights. To point out just a couple examples, during the 1980s, the Honduran state was responsible for the disappearance of more than 200 people because of their ideological beliefs, and during the last four years more than 2,000 youths have been killed, and the state hasn't been able to properly investigate most of these killings."

"Except for some social groups that fight for the respect of human rights, is there anyone else saying anything about these issues? Has anyone ever asked for a U.N. resolution to confirm the miserable situation of human rights in Honduras? Could a country like ours have the moral authority to demand other countries to respect human rights?"

"If your answer to any of those questions is yes, then, what kind of President do we have? And, with all due respect, is he the President of all Hondurans?"

Palmer